

# FRENCH STRIKE ON NEW FRONT; AMERICANS TAKE TWO VILLAGES

**Breaking Out in New Spot Northwest of Montdidier, the French Advanced a Mile on a Four-Mile Front and Operations May be Extended**

**AMERICANS CAPTURE JAULGONNE AND BUZANCY, WITH PRISONERS**

**French Take Oulchy-le-Chateau North of Ourcq River—Germans Are Bringing Up More Guns and Reinforcements to the Marne Salient**

(By the Associated Press.)

French and Americans have crossed the Marne over a front of 12 miles between Jaulgonne, seven miles east of Chateau Thierry, and Reuil, near where the German line crossed the stream during the days when the German offensive was at its height.

On the western flank of the German salient the allies have taken Oulchy-le-Chateau, a mile north of the Ourcq and just west of Nanteuil-Notre Dame, a dominating point in the German line of communications. They have also captured the town of Buzancy, seven miles south of Soissons, which brings them up to a ravine that stands between them and the heights to the eastward of Soissons.

On the front between Rheims and the Marne, the British have taken Petit-Champ wood near Marfaux, where they took the places formerly held by the Italian forces.

News of these successes by the allies comes in unofficial London advices. It shows that, in spite of the fact that only artillery duels were reported from the French war office in its day statement, the allies are making important progress all around the salient in which the Germans were caught by the terrific attack of the allies on Thursday morning. A full along the line might have been expected at this time, because of the stern resistance of German reserves brought up by the enemy and the necessity of bringing up heavy artillery and supplies. It appears, however, that the momentum of the allies has not been spent and that they are forging ahead along virtually the entire front of the battle.

At 8:15 o'clock this morning the French launched an attack along a four-mile front in the Montdidier sector. In three hours they advanced a mile. London hints that the attack was over a wider front than that mentioned in the despatch. This new onslaught, directed against a front which has been comparatively quiet since the German offensive there came to a halt early in June, may have an important bearing on the development of the military situation along the whole front.

The French also attacked along the line north of Montdidier, in the Somme sector, last night and occupied the villages of Mailly-Raineval, Sauvillers and Aubvillers, which are west of the Aves river and immediately to the south of the French success earlier in the month, when they captured valuable positions over a three-mile front south of Casteau.

The new attack was over a front of about two and three-quarters miles and the occupation of Aubvillers shows there apparently was a penetration of German positions to a depth of a mile and a quarter. Prisoners numbering 350 were taken by the French.

There are indications that the German preparations for retreat north of the Marne are continuing. Large fires are reported burning at Fere-en-Tardenois, near the western flank of the German salient, and also at Ville-en-Tardenois, just behind the German lines southwest of Rheims.

The enemy may choose a line along the Ourcq for further defensive operations, but the presence of allied troops to the north of this stream may compel a retirement at least as far as the Vesle river. This is said to be indicated by concentrations of German troops at Fismes and other points along the Vesle.

The British have advanced their line slightly south of Hebuterne, where they recently attacked and moved their positions forward over a mile front. South of Fismes and Meteren, in the Lys sector, in Flanders, the British lines also were improved and local success in the Hamel sector north of Albert and in front of Amiens is reported.

## AMERICANS MOVE SOUTH OF SOISSONS

Took Town of Buzancy—Farther South on the Marne They Won the Town of Jaulgonne—French Also Moving Ahead.

London, July 23.—The town of Jaulgonne, on the Marne, has been captured by the Americans, who are continuing their advance. So far the taking of 300 prisoners by Americans in this advance is reported.

The French have captured Oulchy-le-Chateau. The Americans on the front south of Soissons have captured the town of Buzancy. The French, the advices state, stormed the heights north of Courcelles at 3

## SATISFACTORY DAY FOR THE ALLIES

French, American and British Troops All Made Progress Despite Desperate Resistance of the Germans.

With the French Army on the Aisne-Marne front, Monday, July 22 (By the Associated Press).—The fiercest fighting continued throughout the day on both wings of the German salient between the Aisne and Marne. The efforts of the enemy were concentrated on an attempt to prevent the allied troops from cutting through on either side and thus imperiling the great masses of German troops still within the semi-circle.

Despite the German determination, French, American and British troops all made progress.

Possibly the heaviest fighting to-day occurred on the eastern wing of the salient where British troops took part. The British, who had arrived on the scene only recently, engaged the enemy in a hand-to-hand conflict in the extreme wooded region southwest of Rheims.

Four fresh divisions faced them. One German division, which had held the line against the Italians, had been annihilated, only a few hundred remaining. The Germans had a large number of machine guns in this vicinity but the British captured 40 of them in the course of a strong attack in which they made progress and took more than 200 prisoners.

Altogether the day was very satisfactory for the allies who are threatening the German communications everywhere. There is every reason to believe the Germans are hurrying forward more divisions to add to the 60 they already have thrown into the battle.

## LARGE FIRES SEEN IN TWO TOWNS

May Have Been Caused By Bombs Dropped By Allied Aviators or May Have Been Set By Germans Preparing to Retreat.

Paris, July 23 (Havas).—Reports of the fighting in the Soissons-Rheims salient appearing in the Parisian newspapers tell of fires burning at Fere-en-Tardenois and Ville-en-Tardenois. Some of these were, no doubt, caused by bombs dropped by the allied aviators, but it is believed the enemy is destroying stores that cannot be moved back of the German defensive line along the Vesle river.

Fere-en-Tardenois is near the west flank of the salient, while Ville-en-Tardenois is farther east and is near the allied lines, southwest of Rheims. The burning of stores in both places may be an indication of a general retirement from the salient by the Germans.

## SLOWER PROGRESS BY ALLIES.

German Resistance Was Stronger in All Areas.

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, Monday, July 22.—(By Associated Press).—German resistance resulted in harder fighting to-day. The operations were robbed of some of their spectacular features as the day advanced by the determination of the enemy not to be crowded into a retreat.

South of Soissons the allied troops maintained all positions as they were Sunday night, except in some cases where they have been improved slightly. The allied positions, however, are in no apparent danger from attacks by German reserves.

In the area north of Chateau Thierry the enemy is reported by air observers to be still moving northward, but very slowly and fighting rear guard actions all the while. The French and Americans are hanging close to the heels of the retreating Germans and are taking every opportunity to move forward. Army headquarters moves ahead gradually as the line advances.

Enemy airships have been active on observation work, but the shells fired by the German artillery in an attempt to search out the allied rear indicate the airman failed to spot the allied positions. Many shells have dropped along the Marne at irregular intervals and little damage has resulted.

Throughout the day the heavy guns of the allies bombarded the enemy lines with excellent results, according to aerial lookouts. Over all the territory retaken the damage wrought by American and French guns shows the positions formerly held by the Germans suffered much more than the allied lines, notwithstanding that the volume of fire from the Germans was greater.

Further large numbers of prisoners were taken from the Germans to-day.

## CAPTURE OF EPIEDS IMPORTANT.

It Makes the Breaking of Temporary Hinge of German Flank.

Paris, July 23.—(Havas Agency).—In spite of the desperate resistance of the Germans, the entry into the line of enemy reinforcements and repeated counterattacks by the foe, the victory of the allies continues to develop. Not only have the allied positions been held intact against the enemy's assaults, but at certain points further progress has been made.

The newspapers of Paris remark that the victory is growing not only in relation to the ground reconquered by the allies, but also in strategic advantages, the importance of which is being constantly augmented.

Military critics are unanimous that General Ludendorff's efforts now are being exerted to protect his retreat for the army along the Marne, there being many indications of the German intent to retire. The capture of the village of Epieds and the passage of the Mont St. Pere region, according to Henri Bidon, of the Journal, marks the breaking of a position which was the temporary hinge of the southwestern German flank, and he predicts the enemy will be forced at other points.

## GERMANS LEAVE VAST MATERIAL

Veritable Mountain of Stores Was Seized by the Allies

## PRISONERS COME IN BY THOUSANDS

Allies Are Holding All Their Ground Against the Counter-Attacks

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, July 23.—(By Associated Press).—Overnight information does not indicate any radical change in the situation along the battlefield. The prospects seemed to be that to-day would be another of heavy attacks and counterattacks, with not more than slight changes in the line.

The troops of General Pershing and General Petain are holding nearly every inch of ground they have gained since the counter blow began on Thursday last.

The Franco-American force north of Chateau Thierry now are holding Epieds and nearby villages, and a bit of territory northeast of Mont St. Pere. Further east the enemy is continuing to counter attack unsuccessfully.

Along the greater part of the front the artillery fire was the chief activity, although at places brilliant infantry operations are taking place, while machine gun nests make every open field a potential trap.

The number of prisoners has been increased by thousands, and a veritable mountain of captured and abandoned material is in possession of the allies. Many of the guns taken had been blown up or damaged by the enemy before he abandoned them.

The British efforts along the line near Rheims have been rewarded by a bag of prisoners and machine guns.

## VON HINDENBURG AGAIN REPORTED ILL

Able to Be Present at Imperial Receptions But Does Not Speak, Nor Can He Write.

London, July 23.—Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, chief of the German general staff, is seriously ill and has taken no part in military operations of the present year, according to information from Berlin, says a Central News despatch from Berlin to-day.

At great personal effort, the message adds, the field marshal was present at a few of the imperial receptions, but went through the functions without speaking. He is quite incapable of writing, the advices declare.

## NEW FRENCH DRIVE BEGAN AT 8:15 A. M.

At 11 O'clock the French Were Reported to Have Advanced a Mile on a Front of Four Miles Northwest of Montdidier.

London, July 23.—The French at 8:15 o'clock this morning began a new attack in the region northwest of Montdidier, according to advices received here shortly after noon to-day.

At 11 o'clock this morning the French were reported to have advanced a mile on a front of four miles.

It was thought, on the basis of the advices, that the attack in the Montdidier region might be on a wider front than the one mentioned.

## FRENCH RESTORE ALL LOST GROUND

Attack Germans Between Ourcq and the Marne River and Continue to Make Progress There.

London, July 23.—Franco-American troops are continuing to make progress on the battlefield between the Ourcq and the Marne. Advices to-day are that attacks carried out by the French have restored all the ground which they lost on Monday in the region of Grisselles, seven miles northwest of Chateau Thierry.

## BRITISH AGAIN CLOSE NAVAL BASE

German Defenses at Zebrugge Are Destroyed and Channel Blocked by Torpedo Boats.

Amsterdam, July 23.—Repairs which the Germans had made to the mole at Zebrugge and the locks there again have been destroyed by allied airmen, according to The Telegraaf. Two torpedo boats have been sunk in the harbor, it adds, and the canal remains closed. The German observation tower at Lissewege also was hit by the airmen.

Many casualties among the marines at this naval base and among the civilians are reported. Lissewege has been partly evacuated, but thousands of men from Heyst, Blackenburg, Zebrugge and Ghent have been forced to work in the neighborhood and on the mole.

## VAST BRIBERY IN CONTRACTS

Is Alleged to Have Been Uncovered in Soldier Equipment Purchases

## CONSPIRACY SAID TO BE NATION-WIDE

Agencies of the Council of National Defense Involved

New York, July 23.—Agencies of the council of national defense were involved to-day in the nation-wide conspiracy of alleged bribery and graft in the manufacture of soldiers' rubber rain coats through the arrest of Harry E. Lazarus, a member of the council's sub-committee supervising raincoat production. He is accused of attempting to bribe a government inspector.

Department of justice agents also took to custody Charles L. Fuller, chief government inspector for the New York manufacturing district, and it was announced he had confessed full details of the workings of an extensive bribery system in connection with manufacture of raincoats and other soldiers' clothing.

Other arrests are expected as a result of Fuller's disclosures. These were the first of a series of sensational developments promised as a sequel to the arrest last night of 17 raincoat manufacturers in New York on bribery, fraud or conspiracy charges and the confessions of a number of contractors and quartermaster's department inspectors.

The accused raincoat makers were held in bail bonds ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 each when arraigned to-day. Their examination was set for July 30.

Lazarus was a wealthy clothing manufacturer and was a member of the defense committee which advised the war department what manufacturing plants were properly equipped to make raincoats for soldiers in France, and aided in the placing of these contracts. After he obtained contracts for his own plant, it is charged, he sought to give money to a government inspector who was expected in return to approve materials and workmanship not up to the proper standards.

Future developments will show, it is said, that others of the numerous sub-committees of the defense council had members who used their positions to get special favors.

All evidence uncovered will be presented to a grand jury shortly.

Fuller, the chief inspector, confessed that he received weekly allowances from several contractors, it was announced by Assistant Attorney General Huston Thompson, who is directing the campaign against fraudulent profiteers. Similar payments also were made to subordinate employees, at least one of whom received more than \$500 in the last three weeks.

## MAJOR ROOSEVELT FELL LEADING CHARGE

In His Enthusiasm the Young Officer "Went Over the Top" Without a Helmet—He Was Wounded in Leg.

Paris, July 23.—Major Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., received his wound from which he is suffering while leading an attack on a machine gun nest at Ploisy, southwest of Soissons, on Friday.

In the excitement, he "went over the top" without a helmet and when wounded was in the midst of the Germans. The nest was cleared out and the village of Ploisy fell soon afterward.

The Paris editions of the Chicago Tribune say the major reached the American Red Cross hospital on Friday evening. An operation on the wound in his left leg was performed at midnight by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Blake of New York. No bones were broken by the bullet.

The major's tag, which is worn by all wounded soldiers, read: "Severe gunshot wound." Surgeons say it will be six weeks before the major returns to the front. Captain Archie Roosevelt said yesterday that his brother was resting easily in his own home on Avenue du Bois de Boulogne.

## DISABLED STEAMER BEING TOWED IN

Her Smokestack Is Gone and Her Bridge Damaged, Presumably From Submarine.

An Atlantic Port, July 23.—A large steamer with part of her smokestack gone and her bridge damaged, in tow of a government tug off the southern New England coast, was reported by the captain of a steamer which arrived here to-day. The captain believed the disabled vessel to be a Belgian relief steamer. The tug and her tow were in the vicinity of the scene of the operations of the German submarine which on Sunday attacked a tug and four barges.

## LEWIS STILL A CANDIDATE.

Though Roosevelt Declined to Run in New York State.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., July 28.—Attorney General Merritt E. Lewis said to-day that if his present plans are carried out he will continue as a Republican candidate for governor against Governor Whitman, despite the fact that Colonel Roosevelt has declined to enter the primaries.

## FOOD CONTROLLERS OF ALLIES MEET

Herbert C. Hoover of the United States Was Present at Conference Held in London.

London, July 23.—The conference of food controllers of the allied government was opened this morning by John Robert Clynes, the British food controller. Herbert C. Hoover, the American food administrator, attended the meeting, as did the food controllers of Italy, France, Belgium and other countries. Mr. Hoover was accompanied to the session by Waldorf Astor, the new parliamentary secretary to the British food department.

London, July 23.—In a statement to-day on food problems, Herbert C. Hoover, the American food administrator, spoke of the great problem of agricultural substitution, which he said was dominated by the factors of the first of which was time and the second expenditure in fodder and land productivity.

"To increase our beef production," continued Mr. Hoover, "would require from three to five years. On the other hand, we could bring about an enormous increase in our meat and fat production through swine, within nine to 12 months."

After announcing that all anxiety had passed, Mr. Hoover continued:

"We are building ships as a part of our submarine defense. We now have built up our food reserves in the nearest market as a further defense. The call for ships for food next year will be less than last, and consequently we will have more ships for American soldiers."

## LOST BALLOONISTS PICKED UP AT SEA

Three Americans Drifted About in Fog for 400 Miles and Were Rescued Off Port of Halifax.

Halifax, July 23.—Three American aviators from the Chatham, Mass., station, picked up by a vessel 10 miles off this port yesterday, drifted for three days and nights along the north Atlantic coast in a dirigible balloon without definite knowledge of their course. They left Chatham station Friday morning for patrol duty and immediately ran into a fog, which completely engulfed the aviators until they were rescued and brought here. The course over which their balloon traveled, if it continued in a straight line, was estimated at about 400 miles. The men suffered considerably from cold during their flight.

## POWERFUL FIGURE IN THE LAW GONE

Benjamin F. Fifield of Montpelier Said to Have Been a Millionaire, Died To-day at the Age of 85.

Benjamin F. Fifield, for many years one of the most prominent corporation attorneys in Vermont, especially in railway law, died at his home, 118 State street, Montpelier, this morning at 4:30 o'clock after an illness of a year, during the latter part of which time he had been more or less in a state of coma. That he lingered so long was due to the wonderful constitution which he possessed.

Benjamin Franklin Fifield was born in Orange Nov. 18, 1832, the son of Colonel and Mrs. Orange Fifield and the grandson of Col. Samuel Fifield, one of the early settlers of that town and an extensive property holder for that time. The last-named was of Scottish descent, the family name being a union, it is supposed, of Fife, from which the family came, and Field, the original name. The deceased's great-grandfather was an officer in the Revolutionary war and served in the battle of Bennington.

Col. Orange Fifield moved from Orange to Montpelier during the youth of Benjamin, and the latter fitted for college in Montpelier and at the Plattsburg, N. Y., academy. He was graduated from the University of Vermont in the class of 1855 with considerable honor. Selecting law for his life profession, he pursued his studies in the office of Peck & Colby in Montpelier, the former of whom was in those days one of the leading attorneys of the Washington county bar and who later was prominent in public life, being a member of Congress. The other member of the law firm was registrar of the U. S. treasury during the Civil war, and in 1858 Mr. Fifield was admitted to the bar and commenced the practice of law in Montpelier. He was associated with Peck & Colby until 1864 when, Mr. Colby having removed to Washington, D. C., Mr. Fifield formed a partnership with Mr. Peck. This partnership lasted until the death of Mr. Peck in 1896, when Mr. Fifield continued the extensive practice. During the remainder of his active years he devoted himself to the law.

In 1869 he became counsel for the Central Vermont Railway company, as well as confidential adviser for the company and the receivers of that company, and also the Vermont & Canada railroad and successors until 1899. The original companies were placed in the hands of receivers in 1896 and continued so until 1893, a thing unprecedented in judicial annals of that time. During these periods loans of \$3,000,000 were floated and a receiver's floating debt went to protest in 1872. All these matters developed extraordinary litigation and excited wide comment all through New England.

The chief one of the cases in this litigation was started in 1873, going to supreme court three times before the enforcement of the receiver's debts was established. Mr. Fifield ably aided the move to carry the litigation into the United States courts, protecting the interests of the receiver in New York and Massachusetts. Litigation. Mr. Fifield was the chief attorney and made the principal arguments, being opposed by

(Continued on eighth page)

## GOVT. TAKES CAPE COD CANAL

Will Operate It Under the Railroad Administration

## PLENTY OF COAL FOR NEW ENGLAND SURE

Movement Was Hastened by the Submarine Visitation

Washington, D. C., July 23.—President Wilson to-day by proclamation assumed control of the Cape Cod canal, connecting Cape Cod and Buzzards Bay, Mass., and directed the railroad administration to operate it.

The step was taken as a means of protection from submarine operations to the coal supply going from southern ports to New England, and also as a means of expediting the movement of coal into the New England states, where a serious shortage existed last winter.

The taking over of control and operation of the canal has been recommended by the war, navy and commerce departments and by the railroad administration, under which it will be operated.

The canal will be taken over July 25. The railroad administration announced that the dredging of the waterway to a depth of 25 feet will begin immediately, that towage facilities will be restored and that within two months water-borne coal destined for New England can be moved through the canal at the rate of 100,000 tons a year.

Announcement also was made that vessels of the Ocean Steamship company, Clyde line, Merchants & Miners Transportation company and Eastern Steamship company plying in and out of Boston, will be routed through the canal. The waterway also can be used by smaller naval craft and other shipping.

Plans for taking control of the canal were hastened by the appearance of a German submarine off the Massachusetts coast last Sunday, when a tug and three coal barges were sunk. Not only will the canal route protect ships from attack in the section but it will shorten the voyage from southern ports to New England by about 100 miles and protect shipping from storms which made the lower Massachusetts coast dangerous in the winter season.

The canal is owned by the Boston, Cape Cod & New York Canal company, is seven miles long and has a present depth of 19 feet.

## ASSUMES CONTROL OF COMMUNICATION ON JULY 31, NEXT

Government Will Operate the Lines During the War, According to President's Proclamation To-day.

Washington, D. C., July 23.—President Wilson to-day issued a proclamation taking over control of telegraph, telephone, cable and radio systems for the duration of the war, effective July 31. Authority to operate the wire systems is vested in the postmaster general. Complete details, it was announced, would be made public later in the day.

## CANDIDATE FOR REPRESENTATIVE V. E. AYERS OF BARRE ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY TO-DAY.

V. E. Ayers to-day announced his candidacy for the office of city representative and friends are circulating a petition to the end that his name may go before the voters at the coming primaries. Mr. Ayers came to Barre in the spring of 1870, and as a young man enrolled as a student in the old Barre academy, where he completed the course in 1874. He began work as a carpenter and builder and in later years he became a lumber dealer and contractor. Although he has been frequently urged to accept office, the only public position he has consented to hold was that of assessor. In that capacity he discharged his duties in a painstaking manner. Friends of Mr. Ayers are urging his qualifications with a good deal of enthusiasm and even though the nomination should be contested, it is generally recognized that he is a formidable candidate.

## FIVE CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH

And Others Were Injured in Kent County (Mich.) Juvenile Home—Origin of Fire Not Determined.

Grand Rapids, Mich., July 23.—Five children, ranging in age from two to 12 years, were burned to death, one other received probable fatal injuries and seven were severely hurt in a fire which destroyed the Kent County Juvenile home here early to-day. The origin of the fire has not been determined.

## NEW TALC CORPORATION.

Is Formed to Operate the Mines Near Waterbury. The Vermont Talc Co., capitalized for \$200,000, has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state. The papers are signed by John S. Wilkin, G. E. Moody, F. C. Luce, E. E. Grout, all of Waterbury, and G. H. Almon of Montpelier. The company's office will be located at Waterbury. They propose to operate a talc mine situated at the corner of the following four towns: Waitsfield, Fayston, Moretown and Duxbury, formerly owned by the American Quarries Co., of which F. L. Tracy is receiver.